

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9555
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PEKING 0042

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: OREP (KENNEDY, EDWARD M) CH TW UR
SUBJ: SENATOR KENNEDY'S MEETING WITH VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING

REF: PEKING 0024

HONG KONG PASS TO ASST SEC HOLBROOKE AND AMB WOODCOCK

1. SENATOR KENNEDY AND ALL ADULT MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION EXCEPTING JOURNALISTS MET FOR 1 1/2 HOURS ON AFTERNOON OF JAN 4 WITH VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING. EARLIER CHINESE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CPIFA) HAD ADVISED CODEL KENNEDY TO EXPECT A MEETING WITH VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN. IN RESPONSE TO STRONG PITCH BY SENATOR KENNEDY TO MEET INSTEAD WITH TENG, CPIFA REVERSED ITSELF, SAYING FOR THE RECORD THAT WHEN SCHEDULING DONE ORIGINALLY TENG HAD "BEEN SUFFERING FROM A MILD COLD" BUT SINCE HE HAD RECOVERED IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE SENATOR TO MEET HIM. ALTHOUGH USLO WAS NOT REPRESENTED AT MEETING, CODEL PROVIDED COMPLETE MINUTES TAKEN BY MEMBERS. TRANSCRIPT WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPTEL. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION, WHICH SEN. KENNEDY CHARACTERIZED TO THE PRESS AS "FRIENDLY, LIVELY, FRANK, WITH A CLEAR DELINEATION OF AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT."

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2. FOLLOWING ON THE JANUARY 3 SESSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA (REFTL), THE MEETING WITH TENG WAS DEVOTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO EXPLORATION OF THE TAIWAN ISSUE, ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE GLOBAL ROLES OF THE US AND THE PRC, ITS IMPACT ON CURRENT BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE PRC, AND ITS SENSITIVITY IN THE AMERICAN DOMESTIC

POLITICAL MILIEU. SENATOR KENNEDY AGAIN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO OUTLINE HIS ESTIMATE OF SOVIET WEAKNESS VIS-A-VIS THE UNITED STATES IN THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND STRATEGIC SPHERES. NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, TENG DIFFERED ON APPRAISAL OF SOVIET MILITARY POWER AND CAUTIONED THE US TO REMAIN VIGILANT.

3. TAIWAN. SENATOR KENNEDY OPENED BY AFFIRMING HIS COMMITMENT TO NORMALIZATION OF US-PRC RELATIONS, HIS HOPE THAT THE PROCESS WOULD TAKE PLACE RAPIDLY, HIS OPPOSITION TO ANY "TWO CHINAS" OR "ONE CHINA ONE TAIWAN" POLICY, HIS INTENTION TO WORK FOR NORMALIZATION, AND HIS BELIEF THAT PRC ACTIONS COULD HASTEN OR RETARD THE PROCESS.

4. TENG EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SEN KENNEDY'S PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR NORMALIZATION BUT TOOK EXCEPTION TO THE NOTION THAT THE PRC IS OBLIGED TO TAKE ANY ACTION CALCULATED TO HASTEN THE PROCESS. WITHOUT SUGGESTING ANY IMPATIENCE ON THE QUESTION OF TAIWAN ("IF THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TAIWAN NOW, WE CAN WAIT...IN THE END THE CHINESE PEOPLE WILL RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF TAIWAN. PEOPLE OF MY AGE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE THE GOAL FULFILLED, BUT PEOPLE AT THE AGE OF CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THAT."), TENG:

--REITERATED THE STANDARD THREE CONDITIONS, NOTING THAT ONLY SEVERANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SEEMED TO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE US;

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--CHARACTERIZED AS AN INFRINGEMENT OF CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY ANY US DEMAND THAT THE PRC COMMIT ITSELF TO PEACEFUL LIBERATION;

--REJECTED THE NOTION THAT THE PRC WOULD BE "FLEXIBLE" ON TAIWAN EXCEPT IN TIMING; AND

--REITERATED HIS STATEMENT TO SECRETARY VANCE THAT FOLLOWING NORMALIZATION "YOU SHOUDN'T HAVE ANY CONTACT BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS BUT YOU CAN HAVE NONGOVERNMENTAL EXCHANGES AND TRADE." LATER IN THE CONVERSATION, TENG STATED FLATLY "THE PROPOSAL BROUGHT TO CHINA BY MR VANCE LAST AUGUST CANNOT WORK."

5. TENG ALSO REPEATED THAT "CHINA WOULD TAKE NOTE OF PARTICULAR CONDITIONS IN TAIWAN." IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH CODEL KENNEDY MEMBER JAN KALICKI, US DIVISION DIRECTOR TING YUAN-HUNG SEEMED TO AMPLIFY IN INTRIGUING FASHION ON THIS: (WE CANNOT

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COMMIT OUTSELVES TO A PEACEFUL LIBERATION OF TAIWAN "BUT I THINK PERHAPS WE MAY TELL OUR PEOPLE INTERNALLY -- INCLUDING OUR PEOPLE ON TAIWAN -- THEY MAY EXPECT A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE.") COMMENT: WE PLAN TO ADDRESS THIS AND OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CODEL KENNEDY VISIT IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

6. TAIWAN AND THE SOVIET UNION. REJECTING SENATOR KENNEDY'S CONTENTION THAT A "CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF TAIWAN WILL HAVE REPERCUSSIONS WHICH MAY WELL BE REFLECTED TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE POLAR BEAR," TENG CLAIMED THAT THE SOVIETS FEAR MOST US-PRC NORMALIZATION, THAT THE SOVIET UNION COULD NOT FILL THE VACUUM FOLLOWING US DEPARTURE, AND THAT THE CONTRARY WOULD THUS BE TRUE.

7. TAIWAN, NORMALIZATION, AND US-PRC EXCHANGES. IN THE FIRST AMPLIFICATION TO OUR KNOWLEDGE ON THE PRC POSITION THAT US-PRC EXCHANGES (AND TRADE) ARE "LIMITED" BY THE ABSENCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, TENG TOLD SENATOR KENNEDY "WE HOLD THAT THE NONGOVERNMENTAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN CHINA AND THE US SHOULD NOT EXCEED THOSE BETWEEN CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US."

8. TAIWAN, NORMALIZATION, AND TRANSFER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. WHILE TACITLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE PRC WOULD
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BENEFIT FROM AMERICAN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, TENG NOTED USG OBJECTIONS TO SALE OF ADVANCED COMPUTERS AND WRYLY POINTED TO AMERICAN VETOES OF OTHER SALES CAST THROUGH ITS SHARE IN "LOTS OF MULTINATIONAL COPROATIONS IN EUROPE." TENG CONCLUDED THAT INCREASED TRADE, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES WOULD FLOW NATURALLLY FROM NORMALIZATION

OF RELATIONS.

9. THE SOVIET UNION. DISCUSSION OF THE COMMONALITY OF PRC AND US INTEREST IN COUNTERING SOVIET EXPANSIONISM FOLLOWED STANDARD LINES. UNLIKE FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG, TENG AT NO TIME INTIMATED THAT FAILURE TO RESOLVE THE TAIWAN QUESTION WOULD HINDER THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO OPPOSE THE SOVIET UNION (EXCEPT INsofar AS THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE PLACED ON THE DEFENSIVE BY US-PRC NORMALIZATION). SENATOR KENNEDY GAVE A DETAILED PRESENTATION OF US MILITARY AND STRATEGIC STRENGTH VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIET UNION; TO THIS TENG REGISTERED AN OBJECTION, CLAIMING THAT THE SOVIETS HAD ACHIEVED MILITARY STRENGTH SURPASSING THAT OF THE US AND MAKING THE USUAL POINTS ABOUT "APPEASEMENT" OF THE SORT REPRESENTED BY THE "SONNENFELDT DOCTRINE."

10. THE FOREGOING MESSAGE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH SENATOR KENNEDY OR MEMBERS OF THE CODEL.

11. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT MESSAGE TO MOSCOW AND TOKYO.
DEAN

NOTE: UPGRADED TO NODIS PER STATE 001247

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